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REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL RELATIONS.

IN RELATION TO THE

ERECTION OF A MONUMENT,

MADE TO THE

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

ANNAPOLIS:
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REPORT.

The Committee on Federal Relations, to whom was referred the address and proceedings of a Convention of Delegates from the *thirteen* original States, assembled in Philadelphia on the 5th and 6th of July, 1852, for the purpose of adopting some plan for the erection of a suitable monument to commemorate the Declaration of Independence, made in Independence Hall in that city, three-quarters of a century before, beg leave to report, that they have had the said address, and the plan proposed by the Convention, under consideration, and report favorably thereon.

The proposed plan contemplates the erection, by the thirteen original States, of a monument "with thirteen sides or faces, united by an entablature upon which the Declaration of Independence shall be cut into the solid stone, surmounted by a tower or shaft; the thirteen faces to contain such inscriptions and emblazonings as each State shall direct, commemorative of some citizen or citizens of her own who took part in the responsibility of that Declaration."

The cost of the contemplated structure is estimated at \$100,000, to defray which it is proposed, that each State shall contribute in proportion to her ratio of the representation in the United States House of Representatives.

The contributing States are to appoint a Board of Trustees, whose duty it shall be to take charge of the funds, superintend the erection of the monument and the keeping of it, and the grounds upon which it shall be constructed, (and which are to be enclosed within an iron railing,) in the necessary repair. On the 7th day of October, 1852, the City Councils of Philadelphia adopted a series of ordinances appropriating a portion of Independence Square to the sublime purpose of commemorating the birth of this great and growing nation. These ordinances of the municipal authorities have been endorsed and ratified by an Act of the Pennsylvania Legislature, approved the 2nd of February last, so that the States uniting in the project, have the amplest guarantees that these grounds and the monument erected thereon can never be diverted from the great national purpose sought to be accomplished.

Such is a brief outline of the plan proposed by the Convention. The Committee cannot suppose that a labored or lengthened argument will be necessary to establish the propriety of *our* State uniting with her sisters in the construction of the proposed memorial. Maryland bore no secondary part in the great events it is

proposed to commemorate. *Her* chivalric sons went forth to battle and to death to maintain the great truths contained in the Declaration of Independence.

Her cherished and heroic Carroll was the last survivor of that noble band of patriots who, "with halters around their necks, subscribed an instrument that consigned them to dungeons and to death, or to liberty and independence;" and within the walls of *her* ancient Capitol, where we, her Representatives are now assembled, were consummated the labors, the trials and the glory, incident to that Declaration, by the ratification of a treaty of peace, in which Englands proud Monarch acknowledged the justice of our claim to a place among the Free and Independent Nations of the Earth.

With these recollections of a common danger and a common glory, in which she was united with her sister States, Maryland cannot consent that the side or face, upon the Monument appropriated to her, shall be left without inscription or emblazonry, to record the deeds of her patriot sons. There, in connection with their noble compeers, shall the name of her Chase, her Paca, her Stone and her Carroll, be written in letters that shall endure until the Monumental Stone on which they are inscribed shall crumble beneath the corroding touch of time; and thus will unborn generations catch inspiration from *their* deeds, and cherish in their inmost hearts the hallowed spirit of *Liberty*, of *Independence* and of *Union*.

Entertaining these sentiments, and believing that the proposed Monument will greatly conduce toward strengthening the bonds of union between the States uniting in its construction, the Committee herewith report a bill to carry out the project of the Convention.

JNO. E. H. LIGGET,
Chairman.

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